

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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P R 091602Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH

SHAPEUSNR

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PICCOLI, BARTOLOMEI RE-ELECTED AS DC'S PARLIAMENTARY  
GROUP LEADERS; MORO WILL CONFIRM HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT  
LEONE THIS EVENING

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1. DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS YESTERDAY RE-ELECTED FLAMINIO

PICCOLI AS DC'S GROUP LEADER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, AND GIUSEPPE BARTOLOMEI AS GROUP LEADER IN THE SENATE. THOUGH DEMAND FOR CHANGE WAS STRONG, BOTH IN THE END WERE THE ONLY CANDIDATES FORMALLY PRESENTED, AND BOTH EASILY WON ELECTION, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT DISSENT.

2. OVERALL RESULT SOMEWHAT SURPRISING AS IT WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT THE LEFT AND RIGHT OF THE PARTY WOULD DIVIDE THE OFFICES. BARTOLOMEI IS A CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF FANFANI, AND PICCOLI A TRADITIONAL LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE DOROTEI FACTION. CHOICES READ AS CLEAR VICTORY OF PARTY'S RIGHT OVER PARTY'S ZACCAGNINI-INSPIRED LEFT, THOUGH ZACCAGNINI HIMSELF ENDED UP BY PUBLICLY FAVORING THIS SOLUTION IN THE NAME OF PARTY UNITY. MANY YOUNG REFORMISTS IN BOTH CAMPS DISMAYED, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE LEFT WHO SUFFERED A POLITICAL DEFEAT AS WELL.

3. PICCOLI RECEIVED 138 VOTES. SIXTEEN VOTES WERE DISPERSED AMONG OTHER CANDIDATES, 82 BLANK BALKMOSTLY PRO-ZACCAGNINI GROUP) WERE CAST IN DISSENT TO PICCOLI'S CHOICE, AND 11 WERE VOIDED. EIGHT OF THE ELEVEN VOTES WHICH WENT TO OTHER CANDIDATES WERE CAST IN FAVOR OF YOUNG REFORMIST GERARDO BIANCO. FANFANI LOYALIST BARTOLOMEI HAD A MUCH EASIER TIME; HE RECEIVED 107 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES AGAINST 23 BLANK BALLOTS.

4. MEETING OF DEPUTIES WAS EXPECIALLY AGITATED. THOUGH PICCOLI HAD INDICATED NO INTEREST IN CONTINUING, HE MADE NO SHERMAN STATEMENTS. AFTER FORLANI IN EFFECT DID RETIRE, CIRIACO DE MITA, ACTIVIST LEFTIST (BASE) LEADER WHO INVENTED SO-CALLED "INSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE" WITH PCI PUT FORTH HIS CANDIDACY, BUT WAS STRENOUSLY OPPOSED BY OTHER LEFTIST, BUT ANTI-COMMUNIST FACTION LEADER DONAT CATTIN (FORZE NUOVE). COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO SIMPLY FREEZE OLD INCUMBENTS TEMPORARILY IN OFFICE THEN EVOLVED INTO PERMANENT SOLUTION. LEFT PRESS ACCUSES MORO OF STAGE-MANAGING ENTIRE OPERATION.

5. COMMENT: SETTLEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION OPENS WAY TO SELECTION BY DC OF THE CANDIDATE(S) FOR PRIME MINISTER IT WILL SUGGEST TO PRESIDENT LEONE. ANDREOTTI IS EMERGING AMONG OBSERVERS AS THE SOLE LIKELY NAME THE DC WILL PRESENT, THOUGH FORLANI, COSSIGA, ZACCAGNINI, AND MORO HIMSELF ARE ALSO MENTIONED. ALL OF THESE LATTER HOWEVER HAVE PRIVATELY LET IT BE KNOWN THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED ( NOTE: WORE SERVICE HAS JUST CATEGORICALLY REPORTED THAT MORO WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT LEONE

AT 1830 THIS EVENING (JULY 9) TO CONFIRM HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION. LEONE EXPECTED TO BEGIN HIS CONSULTATIONS ON WEEKEND OR MONDAY. PREMIER-DESIGNATE LIKELY TO BE NAMED BY WEDNESDAY AT LATEST).

6. THOUGH CAUSE OF RENEWAL RECEIVED A SETBACK IN CHOICE OF DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADERSHIP, RESULT IS ALSO A CHECK TO THOSE FAVORING COMPROMISE WITH THE PCI. IMPASSE HAD DEVELOPED IN WHICH DC IN EFFECT HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RENEWAL OF LEADERS OF WHICH ONE AT LEAST WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RECEPTIVE TO COMPROMISES WITH PCI, AND MAINTAINING OLD LEADERS. THE CHOICE MADE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WAS POSITIVE. VOLPE

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